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DEALER IN
Books, Stationery, Artists' Materials,
Magazines, Newspapers, Pictures,
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BREWSTER'S BLOCK, MIDDLEBURY, VT.

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Books, Stationery, Artists' Materials,
Magazines, Newspapers, Pictures,
and Picture Frames.
BREWSTER'S BLOCK, MIDDLEBURY, VT.

W. P. J. FULLER, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
MIDDLEBURY, VT.
Office over my Drug Store, Entrance
Middle Door,
Brewster's Block.

H. KINGSLEY,
DENTIST,
MIDDLEBURY.
OFFICE, Brewster's Block,
Up Stairs.

STEWART & FOOTE,
Attorneys & Counsellors at Law,
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT.
J. W. STEWART, J. H. FOOTE.

E. R. WRIGHT,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY.
AND
CLAIM AGENT,
MIDDLEBURY, VT.

C. B. CURRIER, M. D.,
Homeopathic Physician and Surgeon,
Office, under the Court House,
MIDDLEBURY, VT.
Office hours, from 7 to 8 A. M.; 12 to 1, and
6 to 8 P. M.

N. HARRIS, M. D.,
Surgeon and Mechanical Dentist.
Teeth filled with (Crescent) Gold, all opera-
tions done in Dentistry as usual, either
at his residence on Park Street, west
side of the Little Park.

THOMAS H. MCLEOD,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY,
AND CLAIM AGENT,
Office of the late Odes Seymour,
MIDDLEBURY, VT.

A. P. TUPPER,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT.

H. W. BREWSTER,
Dealer in
Watches, Clocks, Jewelry and
FANCY GOODS.
In Copeland's Block, Middlebury, VT.
Watches, Clocks, and Jewelry repaired in
the best manner, and warranted. Terms mod-
erate.

J. S. BUSHNELL,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
Office of J. L. Eldridge, Esq., formerly oc-
cupied by F. Smith,
Middlebury, VT., March 26th 1865.

L. L. WHITLOCK,
Dealer in
Trees, Shrubs, &c., &c.
The subscriber has established himself in this vicin-
ity, and is prepared to furnish all kinds of
Horticultural Stock,
which he will guarantee to be true such as his
patrons shall order.
Trees sent out and warranted if desired. 25
Leave your names or orders at the Post Office, in
Middlebury, and I will call and see you.
Middlebury, Dec. 30, 1864.

A. T. CLAY'S
JUST RECEIVED
New Goods,
Consisting of
Millinery,
Dress Goods,
Shawls,
Furs,
Worsted Goods
Of Every Description,
Dress and Cloak Trimmings
OF ALL KINDS.
Waterproof Cloths and Cloaks,
and
EVERY THING
in the line of
LADIES' DRESS,
and
FURNISHING GOODS.
Call and
see prices as low as at any place in Town.

OVERCOATS
CHEAP!
A lot of good Overcoats on consignment, will
be sold at cost in Cash.
H. A. SHELTON.
Jan'y 29th.

SHEEP WASH TACCO.
Sheep Shears,
Sheep Marking,
Blue Vitriol, Nitric Acid, Sulphur, Butter of
Antimony, Corrosive Sublimite, and White
Vitriol, at
SHELTON'S.

POTATOES,
500 Bushels, for Sale by
H. A. SHELTON.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM
WALL STREET!! GRANT!!!
AND
CHAPMAN & BARBOUR!!!
Gold Down! Grant Victorious!
PRICES OF GOODS MARKED DOWN!!!
For further information, enquire at
CHAPMAN & BARBOUR.
Middlebury, March 28, 1865.

A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF LADIES' and
MISSES SHOES, at reduced prices,
at
CHAPMAN & BARBOUR,
Middlebury, March 28, 1865.

Middlebury Register.

VOL. XXX.

MIDDLEBURY, VT., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1865.

NO 12.

POETRY.

THE OPEN DOOR.

Within a town of Holland once
A widow dwelt, 'tis said,
So poor, alas! her children asked
One night, in vain, for bread.
But this poor woman loved the Lord
And knew that He was good;
So, with her little sons around,
She prayed to Him for food.

When prayer was done, her eldest child,
A boy of eight years old,
Said softly, "In the holy book,
Dear mother, we are told
How God, with food by ravens brought,
Sustained the prophet's need."
"Yes," answered she, "but that, my son,
Was long ago indeed."

"Not mother, God may do again
What He has done before;
I will go, to the holy book,
And read the story o'er.
I will see if I cannot find
Some sign of His good hand,
So that I may be sure of food
For all my little band."

And he, the boy, went forth alone,
And sought the holy book;
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came prying about a fellow's engine at
this time of night, trying to find out some-
thing against him. "They'll fine poor Sam
if they find him off his perch." One of
the strangers was stout, and the other was
slim. They were both well wrapped up,
for the night was chilly; and the slim one
carried a small, square leather case in one
hand—judging by that dim light, it might
be either a dispatch-box or a small port-
manteau.

"You are waiting here to take out
some train, young man?" said the stout
gentleman interrogatively.
"Yes, sir—the mail for Rippingshurst."
"And that starts—when?"
"In twelve minutes, sir, from the plat-
form."

"Ah, just so." He began to walk
slowly around the *Firefly* with his hands
behind him, looking at her admiringly
from every point of view, talking to me
all the time.

"I suppose your engine is coked and wa-
tering ready for the journey?"
"Yes, sir."
"And how far do you run before tak-
ing in fresh water?"

"We always take in water at Merry-
vale, thirty-eight miles from here. We
have to stop there three or four minutes
on account of the letter-boxes."

"But supposing you had no train be-
hind you, how many miles could you run
to-night, say at the rate of forty miles an
hour, before being obliged to stop for
coke or water?"

"About seventy miles, sir."
"About seventy miles! Just so—
Really these steam-monsters seem to me
the most wonderful of this or any previous
age."

As he said these words, he mounted
easily on to the engine. Then I felt
more certain than ever that he must be a
director or great railway functionary;
while the slim gentleman with the dis-
patch box, standing so quietly on the
ground, beating his chest with one hand
to keep himself warm, was probably a
clerk or amanuensis.

No sooner had the stout gentleman
climbed up beside me than he com-
menced another rapid cross-fire of ques-
tions, and made me explain to him the
method of working the engine. I show-
ed him how to start her, how to stop her,
how to put on the brake, and how to
sound the whistle. He expressed him-
self as being immensely gratified with it;
and when his list of questions were ex-
hausted, called to the slim gentleman to
get up beside me, in order that he might
explain to him some more interesting
point than common.

The slim gentleman, still holding his
dispatch box carefully, had hardly com-
plied with this request, when the bell
sounded which summoned me to the sta-
tion, and I at once started with the en-
gine.

"We will ride as far as the platform
with you," said the stout gentleman,
watching my movements attentively.

The ordinary programme of proceeding
was as follows: on hearing the bell to
run the engine slowly forward to the sec-
ond pointman's box, where a man was
in waiting to turn her on to the main line
after running on which a few yards, she
was reversed and ran back, tender first,
into the station, taking up Sam Preston
at the first pointman's box on the way in.

On the present occasion, as soon as I
heard the bell, I sounded my whistle as a
notice to pointman number two; and on
seeing his green light exhibited, ran
the engine forward over his points till we
were on the main line. I was just about
to reverse the engine, for the purpose of
running back into the station, when the
stout gentleman spoke to me.

"How far is it from here to the junction
where the line to Rippingshurst sepa-
rates itself from the north line?"
"About half a mile, sir."

"And what means has the pointman
at that junction of distinguishing one set
of trains from the other, or of knowing on
to which line they ought to be turned?"
"His tables inform him at what time
each train ought to arrive or depart, in
addition to which, all engines going north
give south to Rippingshurst and other
places, while three times before reach-
ing the junction, and thus notify to the
pointman which route it is intended they
should take."

"Just so; two whistles when you go
north, and three when you go south—
Le moment est venu!" Scarcely had the
stout gentleman, who was standing behind
me, uttered these words, when I felt my-
self seized suddenly round the throat with
an iron gripe, while my head was wrenched
violently back, and the next moment I
became insensible. Had such a mode
of attack been known in those days, I
should certainly have said that I had
been garrotted.

When I came to myself, I was lying
on my back among the cokes in the ten-
der, with my overcoat put under my head
by way of a pillow. I staggered to my
feet, feeling very dizzy and faint, and
with a choking sensation in my throat
that was far from agreeable. The *Firefly*
was tearing along at a terrific pace, with
no train behind her; going, too, not
south to Rippingshurst, but along the main
line to the north, as I saw when I looked
round, for the night was fine, and the
stars shone brightly; and I was familiar
with every turn and feature of the land-
scape. Mellinghall was ten miles away,
and two stations had been passed already.
I had but just time to make these obser-
vations when the stout gentleman turned
to address me.

"Getting round again, I perceive," said
he; "you will be all right in another
quarter of an hour. Here, take a dram
of this brandy; you will find it improve
you wonderfully. You will, I am sure,
forgive me the little rudeness I perpetrated
a few minutes ago; necessity compelled me
to act as I did. You are better already.
I see. And now I will yield up my post
of driver to you, having every confidence
in your ability to conduct me and my
friend safely to our journey's end."

"And where may that be?" asked I
so weakly and sulkily. "This is not the
road to Rippingshurst!"
"Just so. It is the line to the north
on which we are now traveling—I whis-
tled twice at the junction, according to
your instructions—and it is northward
that I wish to go. My friend and I
were too late for the mail; we could not
afford to wait for the next train, which,
in fact, does not start till six to-morrow
morning; so we were compelled, in this
rude and violent fashion, to invent a
special for ourselves."

Food that I was, how egregiously had
I allowed myself to be deceived! I had
actually taken one of these men for that
awful personage, a railway director;
whereas the two of them were, probably
nothing better than a brace of swindlers.
With what dire punishment I should be
visited when I got back to Mellinghall,
I must not just then pause to contemplate.
It was true that I was being carried away
against my will; but I had been wrong
in the first place in allowing a stranger to
get on to the engine, and so render it im-
possible for any one to usurp the command
placed temporarily in my hands. The
mail would be delayed; and when it was
discovered that I had absconded with the
engine, they would put me down as a
humane at once. But a few minutes
more would bring us to Fallowfield sta-
tion, at which place I would stop and
give the two strangers into custody, and
prove my innocence at the same time.

"This sort of thing may seem a pleas-
ant game to you," I said, turning to the
stout stranger; "but it is decidedly un-
pleasant for me. You've delayed the mail,
and run away with the engine—
solenly, in fact, and laid your lives open
to an indictment of felony. But we shall
be at Fallowfield in three minutes, and
then you will have an opportunity of ex-
plaining to some one higher in authority
than me, the meaning of your singular
conduct, for I don't intend to drive you
any further."

"Your *interview*, my young friend, is
really amusing," said the stout stranger,
with a grin. "Understand once
for all, that I, and not you, am master
of the situation; and that it is for you
to obey my orders implicitly. Refuse to
do so, or attempt to play any fool's tricks
with the engine, and I will scatter to
four winds what little brains you possess,
and scatter your bones under the wheels of
your own engine!" At the same instant
I felt the cold barrel of a pistol pressed
to my temple; and I staggered back, and
should have fallen from the engine, had
not the stout man caught me by the col-
lar, and dragged me back.

"There now," said he, good-humoredly,
"you owe me some thanks for having
saved your life. Do as I tell you, young
man, and you have nothing to fear. I
pledge you my word to restore you to the
arms of your disconsolate friends."

I saw at once that further resistance
just then would be useless; I had better
make up my mind to obey the orders of
the mysterious stranger, keeping, mean-
while, both eyes and ears on the alert—
So, with a shrill whistle, we flew past
Fallowfield at full speed; and then I
showered a lot of cokes into the furnaces,
and poured a little oil here and there
among the joints of the machinery, and
went quietly about my work, as though
no strangers were present, but always
keenly observant of what my companions
were doing.

"I am glad to find that you have come
to your senses so readily," said the stout
man. "Keep your engine up to the
mark, and our journey will be done all
the sooner." So saying, he proceeded to
fasten a white woollen comforter around
his throat, and to put on a travelling-cap
in place of his hat; after which, he lit a
cigar, and turned to look at his friend.

The slim man (I call them gentlemen
no longer) had taken no part in the con-
versation; but seated from the first in
one corner, with the dispatch-box be-
tween his knees, had seemed to take a
very dependent view of his position—
Hm, the stout man now turned to ad-
dress him; but when he spoke it was in the
French language, evidently that I might
not understand what was said; neither
of them dreaming that the black, greasy-
looking stoker beside them was acquainted
with more languages than his own.

"How melancholy you look to-night,
my friend," said he, "one would think
you were in love, so foreboding are you sit
there. All our plans have succeeded,
and although we have missed the train,
that is a matter of little moment, since,
thanks to our clever *chef de main*, we shall
not be above half an hour late at our
destination; and I feel sure you will wait
that short time for us. This night
of all nights in the year, you ought to be
as merry as a black-bird; for now you
have accomplished your revenge—take
revenge for which you have been sighing
day and night, for six months past. So
cheer up, my child, and be light-hearted,
as I am; let the future take care of it-
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"It's so cold sitting here," replied the
slim man with a shiver, "with nothing to
occupy one's fingers or thoughts."
"It is because your thoughts are so
busily occupied, my friend, that makes
you so gloomy and distant. Hot you said
you were cold; here, drain this flask,
choice cognac, I assure you; not a head-
ache in a bucketful of it. And here, take
this overcoat of mine; for myself, I
can do just as well without it; and un-
heeding the remonstrances of the other,
the stout man slipped out of his great
coat, and indicated his friend into it;
then pouring a quantity of cognac into

the cup of his flask make, and made him
swallow that; and finished up, by insist-
ing that he should try a cigar. But in
spite of these friendly attentions, and
the cheering words that accompanied them,
the slim man remained silent and shiver-
ing, brooding over some dark se-
cret, known only to himself and friend.
When the stout man found that all his
efforts were unavailing, he turned away
with a muttered execration, and troubled
himself no more in the matter, but went
on smoking his cheroot, and watching all
my movements attentively, as though he
feared I might play him false.

He asked me the name of each station
that we passed, and its distance from
Mellinghall; and he became tempo-
rarily excited once or twice, when the red
light (the signal to stop) was exhibited at
some stations; at which times I had to
shaken speed, and whistle till the green
light took its place, when we again put
on all steam, and tore on our way.

The cold glitter of a pistol-barrel would meet
my eye at such times, and a muttered
curse would fall on my ear, to beware that
I did not attempt any treachery. But the
dangerous point once passed, the pistol
would disappear for a while, and the
stout man would go on smoking more
furiously than ever, as if to make up for
lost time. He took out his watch once
or twice; and when he held it to the
lamp to see the hour, I had for the mo-
ment a clear view of his face.

He was by no means ill-looking, and
seemed to be about forty years old. He
wore a thick black moustache, and the
rest of his face was closely shaven; he
had dark piercing eyes, that seemed to
look through you; and, for the rest, was
in manners and appearance, as much a
gentleman as nine-tenths of those who
occupy that honorable title.

I kept the furnace of the *Firefly* well
supplied with fuel, and she went along at
a gallant pace, for I was determined to
stop this strange journey as soon as pos-
sible. Past one mile-post after another,
standing whistly out against the dark
backgrounds; with ever and anon a
station, big or little rushing madly up to
us, starting at us blankly for a single se-
cond,